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NEW MEXICO.

Las Cruces.—In view of smallpox having been reported epidemic in Las Cruces by Sanitary Inspector Alexander, of El Paso, the following telegram was addressed to the health officer of that town:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 12, 1899.

Health officer, Las Cruces, N. Mex.:

Please wire full information concerning reported prevalence of smallpox in Las Cruces. Give number of cases and measures taken to prevent spread.

W. WYMAN,
Supervising Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

The following reply was received:

LAS CRUCES, N. MEX., May 12, 1899.

Surgeon-General U. S. Marine-Hospital Service:

Smallpox epidemic rapidly decreasing; no new cases in a week. Present number, 19—largely occurring in vaccinated children. Vaccination not compulsory. No town corporation in Las Cruces. House quarantine, but unable to carry it out strictly. Insufficient means.

J. F. McCONNELL,
Medical Health Officer.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Smallpox on Neville Island.

A letter having been received from Dr. Benjamin Lee, secretary of the State board of health of Pennsylvania, stating that smallpox existed among Government laborers on Neville Island, in the Ohio River, a short distance below Pittsburg, Surg. C. T. Peckham was ordered to visit that island and report on the situation there. He reports as follows:

PITTSBURG, PA., May 12, 1899.

SIR: In accordance with instructions contained in Bureau telegram of the 8th instant, directing me to visit Neville Island and investigate smallpox among Government employees, I have the honor to state that I visited the island yesterday. The island is about 9 miles long and would average 1 mile in width. It is not thickly populated, being mostly inhabited by market gardeners. Their dwellings are from one-fourth to one-half a mile apart. At the lower end of the island the Government is building a lock. Before the first case of smallpox occurred 200 laborers were employed. Yesterday was pay day, and the paymaster had 125 men on his pay roll. All had been vaccinated except 18; these I vaccinated. There were 5 cases of smallpox. There were in the same building with the smallpox cases 25 workmen who had been exposed and 2 children and 2 nurses. The company had just completed a comfortable building to be used as a pesthouse. The smallpox cases were to be sent to it last night. It is from three to five hundred yards from any inhabited building. The suspicious cases were to be in quarantine fourteen days from the last exposure. Guards were stationed to keep any and every one from approaching the barracks where the smallpox cases were. The first case was that of a negro laborer who came from McKees Rocks, about 10 miles distant, to work. The cases now seem to be under control. The company doing the work has a physician who lives near, and who treats all of their cases of sickness, even the smallpox patients. His house is about 1 mile from the company's buildings.

Respectfully, yours,

C. T. PECKHAM,
Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

RHODE ISLAND.

Providence.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Brown reports, May 10, 1 case in the person of a seaman.

TEXAS.

Eagle Pass.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Hume reports, May 11, as follows:

I have the honor to report that I took a trip to Del Rio, Tex., on May 1, said trip being taken under orders of Collector Drake, for the pur-

pose of preventing spread of smallpox. To this end 3 United States sanitary guards were appointed, said guards doing duty on the Rio Grande and in the Mexican portion of Del Rio. Authority for appointment of said guards was given by Bureau on April 27. During the time consumed by this trip I visited the town of Las Vacas, Mexico, in order to learn the condition of that place as regarded disease. I found measles prevalent in epidemic form both in Las Vacas, Mexico, and Del Rio, Tex. While in Del Rio, I made a house-to-house inspection of the Mexican portion of that town. Judge Griner, county judge of Val Verde County, kindly assisted me in this inspection. I found numerous cases of measles but only 1 case of smallpox, which case I reported to the Bureau some time since.

Smallpox is still raging in many Mexican towns, but with the guard we now have, it is next to impossible for the disease to gain admittance into this country.

On May 9 a report to the effect that a case of smallpox existed in the Quemado (a little Mexican settlement some twenty miles up the river on the American side) was turned in to Mr. Drake. I was immediately ordered to the Quemado to investigate. I found measles everywhere but no smallpox has as yet been discovered in that locality. An additional guard was put on, however, and if anything turns up like smallpox, the necessary precaution to prevent its spread will be taken. It is out of the question to isolate measles, hence no attempt has been made to do it.

Many rumors are in existence about the prevalence of smallpox in Torreon, Mexico, but as yet have received no authentic information.

The tents for which I made requisition have arrived, but at present no suspect is in quarantine.

Vera Cruz and Tampico, as well as other Mexican seaport towns, are being carefully watched. Everything is being done to keep disease out of this part of the country.

Respectfully, yours,

LEA HUME.

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Laredo.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Hamilton reports, May 9, as follows :

April 30 I found 2 men on a train, forty-five hours out from Tampico, Mexico ; these men were put off on Mexican side with their baggage. Their baggage, etc., was disinfected that evening by steam and they crossed to this side with it. May 5 and 8, while inspecting as to parties needing vaccination, I found 1 child with smallpox scabs not yet peeled off and an older child of the same family, although cleaner, still not in condition to be turned loose on the public. I had the car with family, which consisted of mother, stepfather, and 2 children 6 and 8 years of age, returned to Mexico. There was only 1 other passenger in the car at that time, all others having gotten off at Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The passenger was an immune and was put off at a little house belonging to the State of Texas, for disinfection of the clothing which he had in the infected car. The news agent was also left in the car with the infected family ; he is an immune. I telephoned to Mexican authorities and they placed mother and 2 children in isolation. Father and news agent not detained ; both are immunes, but should have had their clothing disinfected at least. I directed railroad company how to thoroughly disinfect car, viz : Washing interior well with solution of corrosive sublimate 1-1000, and afterwards fumigating with sulphur ; as the car was third class and not upholstered, this could

be done easily. I disinfected immune passenger's clothes by the sprinkling method. In the small building the State erected here where trains stop for inspection there is an air-tight room 10 by 6 by 6, in which I did said disinfection and will use for disinfection, as the State as yet has neither formaldehyd, sulphur, nor steam to use in said house.

Smallpox report for week ended May 6, 2 cases, no deaths. These cases came from outside of city limits, namely, Webb County.

Mortality report of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, shows 1 death from smallpox during week ended May 6. * * *

Report at international foot bridge for week ended May 6, 1899: Vaccinated, 11; deported or refused entry on account of sickness or refusal to be vaccinated, 9; examined and allowed entry, 2,787; total examined, 2,807.

Physician employed by State to investigate Monterey, etc., reports no yellow fever at present; some smallpox at Monterey. The cases I found on train May 5 had the disease at Monterey, Mexico. In fact, nearly all Mexican cities have smallpox existing most of the time.

Galveston.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Keiller reports for the week ended May 6, 7 new cases and no deaths.

VIRGINIA.

Alexandria.—Sanitary Inspector Snowden reports, May 14, that the last case occurred on April 21, and the last patient was discharged May 1.

Newport News.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Charles reports, May 6, 1 new case; May 8, 1 new case; May 9, 3 new cases; May 10, 1 new case; total to date, 660; deaths, 13.

Norfolk.—Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports, May 5, 2 new cases; May 6, 3 new cases; May 8, 6 new cases; May 9, 1 new case; May 10, 2 new cases; May 11, 6 new cases; May 13, 3 new cases; May 14, 1 new case; total to date, 800; deaths, 11.

Portsmouth.—Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports, May 5, 6 new cases; May 8, 1 new case; May 9, 2 new cases; May 11, 1 new case; May 12, 1 death; May 13, 2 new cases; May 14, 1 new case; total to date, 298 cases, 4 deaths.